

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience only. No claim amendments have been made:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A double-metal cyanide (DMC) catalyst comprising:

- a) a double metal cyanide compound;
- b) an organic complexing ligand; and
- c) 2 to 80 wt. %, based on the amount of finished catalyst, of an aliphatic polycarbonate having hydroxyl end groups and an average molecular weight below 12,000, as determined by measurement of the OH number.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, in which the double-metal cyanide compound is zinc hexacyanocobaltate(III).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, in which the organic complexing ligand is tert-butanol.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, in which from about 5 to 50 wt. % of the aliphatic polycarbonate c) is present.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, wherein the aliphatic polycarbonate is the reaction product of a polyfunctional aliphatic hydroxyl compound with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, a dioxolanone, phosgene, a bischlorocarbonic acid ester or urea.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, wherein the aliphatic polycarbonate comprises an aliphatic polycarbonate-diol with an average molecular weight of 400 to 6000, as determined by measurement of the OH number, which is the reaction product of a non-vicinal diol with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, a dioxolanone, phosgene, a bischlorocarbonic acid ester or urea.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a DMC catalyst, comprising the steps of:

- (a) reacting an excess of at least one metal salt in aqueous solution with at least one metal cyanide salt in the presence of the organic complexing ligand and an aliphatic polycarbonate having hydroxyl end groups and an average molecular weight below 12,000, as determined by measurement of the OH number;
- (b) isolating the resultant catalyst;
- (c) washing the isolated catalyst; and
- (d) drying the catalyst.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A process for the production of a polyether polyol comprising reacting an alkylene oxide onto a starter compound containing active hydrogen atoms, in the presence of the double-metal cyanide (DMC) catalyst of Claim 1.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 7, wherein the aliphatic polycarbonate comprises an aliphatic polycarbonate-diol with an average molecular weight of 400 to 6000, as determined by measurement of the OH number, which is the reaction product of a non-vicinal diol with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, a dioxolanone, phosgene, a bischlorocarbonic acid ester or urea.